

## ***Hepatitis C Transmission FAQs***

November 2013

### **How is Hepatitis C spread?**

Hepatitis C is usually spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. Today, most people become infected with the Hepatitis C virus by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs.

People can become infected with the Hepatitis C virus during such activities as:

- Sharing needles, syringes, or other equipment to inject drugs
- Needlestick injuries in health care settings

Less commonly, a person can also get the Hepatitis C virus through:

- Sharing personal care items that may have come in contact with another person's blood, such as razors or toothbrushes
- Having sexual contact with a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus

### **Can Hepatitis C be spread within a household?**

Yes, but this does not occur very often. If Hepatitis C virus is spread within a household, it is most likely a result of direct, through-the-skin exposure to the blood of an infected household member.

### **What are ways Hepatitis C is not spread?**

Hepatitis C virus is not spread by sharing eating utensils, breastfeeding, hugging, kissing, holding hands, coughing, or sneezing. It is also not spread through food or water.

### **Can a person get Hepatitis C from a mosquito or other insect bite?**

No, Hepatitis C virus has not been shown to be transmitted by mosquitoes or other insects.

### **Can I get Hepatitis C from visiting or working with people who have the virus?**

Not unless the blood of the person who has the virus comes in contact with your blood. That does not happen under normal, everyday circumstances.

If you have further questions about Hepatitis C, call the North Dakota Department of Health's (NDDoH) Public Health Hotline toll-free at 1.866.207.2880 during business hours. Information is also available on the NDDoH website at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Hepatitis/HCVOutbreak2013.htm>, on the NDDoH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ndhealth>, and on Twitter with the hashtag #ndhepc.